



Washington Weekly

August 15, 2006



13th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

U.S. Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

This E-Newsletter is a weekly summary of the events taking place in the United States Congress that affect the State of Michigan and primarily Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

A printable version of this E-Newsletter will also be available on my website
www.house.gov/kilpatrick

Legislative Action From the Week of 7/28/06

H.R. 4, Pension
Protection Act

H.R. 4157, Health
Information
Technology
Promotion Act

H.R. 5970, Estate
Tax and Extension of
Tax
Relief Act

H. Res. 928,
Recognizing National
Historically Black
Colleges and
Universities

H. Con. Res. 384,
Honoring Alpha Phi
Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

H.R. 5682, U.S.-India
Nuclear Cooperation
Promotion Act

In the District
Congresswoman

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the Week Ending 7/28/06

H.R. 4, Pension Protection Act

This bill would require companies that offer pensions to make up for funding shortfall. It affects both defined benefit pension plans, which pay a specified benefit to recipients when they retire and are prevalent in the auto industry, and defined contribution plans, to which employees contribute a certain amount but the benefit that will be paid upon retirement depends on how the funds are invested. Generally, companies would have to increase their funding of pension liabilities from 90% to 100%. Companies with under funded plans would have seven years to make up for that under funding; financially troubled airlines such as Delta and Northwest would have up to 17 years. Under current law, new promise for pension benefits are allowed for plans that are more than 60% funded. This bill prohibits new enhanced pension benefits for plans that are less than 80% funded. I supported this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 279 to 131.

H.R. 4157, Health Information Technology Promotion Act

This bill amends the Social Security Act to promote the use of health care information technology. The bill calls for the appointment of a national Health IT coordinator and promotes technology and training services for health care professionals and establishes a committee to make recommendations on national standards for medical data storage. The measure also allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revisit the HIPAA Privacy Rule to write new privacy standards in light of health IT. These new standards could preempt State laws that are more protective of patient privacy. I voted against this bill, which passed by a vote of 270 to 148.

H.R. 5970, Estate Tax and Extension of Tax Relief Act

The bill combined a permanent reduction in the estate tax with an extension of expiring tax cuts and an increase in the federal minimum wage. Individuals receiving an estate valued at \$3.75 million or below would be exempt from tax in 2010; the exempt amount would increase annually until it reaches \$5 million in 2015. After 2015, the exemption level would be adjusted annually for inflation. The measure would set the tax rate for estates valued at less

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick to Recognize the Multicultural Dermatology Center at Henry Ford Health System

News You Can Use

A New Direction for America Includes Retirement Security for All Americans

Helpful Resources

[Kilpatrick's Annual Report to Michigan's 13th Congressional District](#)

Printable newsletter for 2006

[Minimum Wage by the Numbers](#)

What you should know about Minimum Wage.

[Directory of Homeownership Assistance in the Detroit Area](#)

Printable booklet of homeownership resources.

[Energy Saving](#)

Brief compilation of tips and tricks to help your energy efficiency in both your home and on the road.

[Voting Rights Act](#)

What you should know about the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

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would be adjusted annually for inflation. The measure would set the tax rate for estates valued at less than \$25 million equal to the tax rate on capital gains now 15% but scheduled to increase to 20% in 2011 unless extended. The \$25 million threshold would be indexed to inflation. The tax rate for estates above \$25 million would be set at 40% in 2010 and phase down to 30% in 2015. The bill also extends the following tax provisions: the research and development credit, the option for taxpayers to deduct state and local sales taxes instead of state income taxes, the deductibility of higher education expenses up to \$4,000, the work opportunity tax credit, the new market tax credit, and the deduction for expenses incurred in cleaning up contaminated "brownfield" sites. The measure would also phase in a \$2.10 increase in the federal hourly minimum wage over a three-year period, rising from the current \$5.15 to \$7.25 on June 1, 2009. I voted against this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 230 to 180.

H. Res. 928, Recognizing National Historically Black Colleges and Universities

This resolution recognizes National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week, which is celebrated the week of September 10. The week serves as a time to celebrate the great accomplishments of HBCUs and recognize their importance to our nation's history. The bill passed unanimously.

H. Con. Res. 384, Honoring Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

This bill recognizes and honors the 100th anniversary of the founding of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans. I supported the resolution, which passed the House by a vote of 422 to 0.

H.R. 5682, U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act

The bill permits the President to waive provisions of current U.S. law that restrict American cooperation with nuclear powers such as India that never signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty of 1968. The bill requires subsequent congressional passage, under expedited procedures, of a joint resolution approving a nuclear cooperation agreement with India. I voted against this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 359 to 68.

To read more about these measures, or any other legislation, please visit the Library of Congress' legislative information site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick to Recognize the Multicultural Dermatology Center at Henry Ford Health System

The Multicultural Dermatology Center at Henry Ford Health System is designed to treat people of color. Its goals include expanding research on issues re-

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Health System is designed to treat people of color. Its goals include expanding research on issues related to people of color and teaching the next generation of dermatologists how to care for multicultural patients. Congresswoman Kilpatrick will recognize the work of the Center during a reception on Friday, September 29, 2006. She will also honor Dr. Henry Lim, the Center's founder and chairman of the department of dermatology, and Henry Ford Health System for its role in developing the Center, which was the first facility of its kind in the country. For more information about the Multicultural Dermatology Center, call (313) 916-2151.

News You Can Use

A New Direction for America Includes Retirement Security for All Americans



This week marks the 71st anniversary of Social Security. In 2005, the President made his plan to privatize Social Security his top domestic priority. Although America's citizens have soundly rejected privatization, the President and Republicans in Congress continue to push for it. Congresswoman Kilpatrick is committed to stopping Social Security privatization and is fighting for retirement security and dignity for all Americans. To learn more about a New Direction for America, visit her web site at www.house.gov/kilpatrick.

By subscribing to Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick's e-mail newsletter, you are authorizing me to send regular e-mail updates from my office to your e-mail account. If you do not want to receive this e-mail, or if you have received this e-mail in error, please accept my apologies and click the link below and you will not be contacted again.